

ECRA 63810  
NSA-63810

Chief of Mission, Frankfurt

Re: From RUMER/DM/GRANT/D/REDCAP

Transmittal of background report

Reference: CTR 00509

1. In accordance with paragraph 2 of the reference we are forwarding as an attachment to this dispatch a report covering the background of Subject. The Attachment is a copy of a JIS intelligence report on RUMER obtained from Embassy files in Bonn. The information is dated 9 October 1951.

2. Please indicate if you wish further traces to be made with the RV.

Attachment: a/s above

8 June 1955

Distribution:

2 - ~~DM~~ (w/1 copy attachment)  
4 - ~~DM~~ (w/2 copies attachment)

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES/METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2008

INDEX

attach 1/4

RI CC

9 June 55

3p

ROUTER, Dr. Franz

Publisher of "Der Volkswirt"  
Frankfurt

Born June 97 at Aachen

Address: Frankfurt, Mittelstr. 28

Router studied politics and economics. After graduating, he became a journalist and was assistant economic editor of the "Bohnische Zeitung" until 1928. From then until 1933 he edited the "Deutsche Arbeiterzeitung", a news letter which, subsidized by heavy industry, opposed the Weimar Republic. At this time, he was also Berlin correspondent of a number of West German newspapers (Bonn or Zeitung, Feister-und Wasser-Zeitung, Wiesbadener Zeitung, etc.). Router established close contact with (Dr) Wilhelm Leucht in 1931 (an unconfirmed report states that he was Leucht's temporary secretary) and published his biography in 1934 or 1937 (he had already published a short biography in "Kremer und Leucht" published at Leipzig in about 1932).

In early 1933, Router became publisher of "Der Deutsche Volkswirt", following the enforced resignation of the founder and editor, who was a determined opponent of Leucht. Under Router this economic journal followed a line favorable to the Nazis and was regarded as Leucht's mouthpiece. In 1937, Router joined the "Lehrwirtschaftsstab" of General (then Colonel) Thomas, a military-economic body set up by the German High Command to put German industry on a wartime footing. He was appointed Lehrwirtschaftsfuehrer in that year.

During the war, and in addition to his post under Thomas, Router held a number of industrial appointments, chiefly in the publishing and textile industries. He was a partner of the "Karlische Verlagsgesellschaft", manager of the "Textil-Verlag G.m.b.H.", the "Verlag der Deutsche Volkswirt GmbH" and the "Karlische Verlag G.m.b.H.". He was also chairman of the supervisory board of "Karlische Werke" Niederrhein AG and director of the "Karlische Textilfabriken AG". "Der Deutsche Volkswirt" was forced to cease publication in 1943 in view of "total mobilization".

*Indicated in Plot against Hitler*

Router was arrested in August 1944, in connection with the unsuccessful plot against Hitler of the previous month. His part in the plot was nebulous; he was probably arrested on account of his connection with General Thomas, who was a friend of the leading conspirators (but who took no active part in the conspiracy after 1942). The Nazis evidently did not credit Router with a major part in the plot, as he was released in October while the chief conspirators were sentenced to death and a host of minor participants were sent to concentration camps. There is no doubt as to the dates of Router's arrest and release. Thomas has stated that "when I heard on 11 October that my confidential man, Dr. Router, had been arrested in Berlin, I knew I was being tracked". Thomas was arrested on 11 October. Router has claimed to have been interned at Sachsenhausen concentration camp until the capitulation, and to have been recognized as a "victim of Nazis". Router published in 1946 a pamphlet on the plot of 20 July 44 in which he extolled Leucht's anti-Nazi activities and his own share in the conspiracy.

INDEX

His claims have since been flatly refuted by such an authority as Rudolf Hechel ("Deutscher Widerstand" 1946). Hechel states (p. 51) that "Router's pamphlet has been spread abroad and in the hands of so-called German publishers a wrong or distorted picture of the Resistance movement ..... The pamphlet can be regarded only as an attempt to create a false self."

Attach 1-10644310

CS 65

Schacht's biographer, a political alibi in case Schacht should be found guilty. For this reason, Reuter tries to depict Schacht as a notable figure in the Resistance Movement, and himself as an important participant in the 20 July Plot. But he was nothing more than an ante-room figure to General Thomas, and, at best, a useful postman. He was not taken seriously on account of his business acumen. His pamphlet has no documentary value whatsoever. One journalist has commented that this pamphlet should have been entitled "Ich, Franz Reuter".

Nothing is known of Reuter's activities (apart from his excursion into autobiography) until 1948, when he appeared again as general director of the Vereinigte Textilfabriken at Langen. In that year he began to prepare for the re-publication of "Der Volkswirt" (the "Deutsche" has been dropped). This economic journal which Reuter seems to own, publish and edit, appeared for the first time in June 1949. It is regarded as the mouthpiece of (Prof.) Ludwig Erhard, the Federal Minister of Economics. He is also an editor of the "Textil-Zeitung". He was recently appointed by the Americans to the liquidation committee of IG Farbenindustrie, an Allied High Commission Agency.

Little information is available on Reuter's political history. He was a member of the Reichspressekammer from 1933 to 1936. He was appointed Wirtschaftsführer as early as 1937, due to his position as an assistant to General Thomas. He also subscribed monthly to the SZ. He was not, however, a member of the NSDAP. He is reported to have been a member of the moderate right-wing Deutsche Volkspartei before 1933, and to be now a right-of-center member of the CDU. He helped found the Gesellschaft fuer die Wiedervereinigung Deutschlands in May 50, and is a member of this committee's executive. The GW is a body of politicians and industrialists favoring direct negotiations with the Russians in order to secure a united Germany; this affiliation is not in itself compromising, and there is no evidence that Reuter has any sympathy with the communists.

Reuter is a wealthy man, with many irons in the fire. His main interests are in publishing and the textile industry, but he has many other connections as well. He is a close friend of Wilhelm Lueggen (general director of the Mannesmann heavy industrial complex). He is on intimate terms with the managers of the Steel Trade Association (Wirtschaftsvereinigung Eisen- und Stahlindustrie). These Mann contacts date from the days when Reuter edited the "Deutsche Fuhrerbriefe". He is also reported to have kept in close touch with Schacht since the war. He has, as far as is known, no financial interest in IG Farben; he may, however, have been proposed for the IG Liquidation Committee by heavy industry or some other outside interests.

As a man, Reuter is not liked by most of those who know him in the Ruhr. He appears to be nervous and fussy, overbearing and egotistic, with no talent for negotiation or team-work and a utterly blind. He is no doubt a clever man with a varied experience and a wide range of interests. He is not well-known to the trade unions, although he is reported as being in favor of making moderate concessions to the labor side on such questions as Arbeitsbestimmungsrecht in order that industrial peace might be secured.

Reuter is a man of many parts. His record is not clean. As a subscribing member of the SZ, a Wirtschaftsführer and a member of the Wehrwirtschaftsstab, Socialist Party. His estimation of his own part as an anti-Nazi seems to be highly exaggerated. His defense of Schacht does not redound to his

EGGA-63812

credit. Reuter is a man who should be watched closely, and not allowed to gain excessive power. If he was not a leading Nazi he is, at least, politically unreliable.

JWA/JU 9 October 1951  
Source: British Intelligence, Cuesseleorf

[ 9/10/51 ]